



# St Andrew's and St George's West March 2018 Magazine

ST ANDREW'S &  
ST GEORGE'S WEST  
EDINBURGH



EDINBURGH City  
Centre CHURCHES  
TOGETHER





## March 2018 Magazine

<b>STAGW Matters</b>		
Lent – Prayers, Sounds and Songs	Ian Y Gilmour	3-7
Lent and Easter Worship		8-9
March-April Diary		10-12
Church News	Say it to God – Come Cruising – Back to 1984	13
Albany Deaf Church		14
<b>Making a Difference</b>		
More Joy to the World		15
Pearson Soka at StAGW		16-17
<b>Looking Differently at the World</b>		
Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary		18-20
Noah's Ark and the Rainbow	Ruth Forrester	21-22
<b>In the City – Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER</b>		
Lent: An Evening with Dr Rowan Williams		23
Together News	James McNeill	22-24
Cornerstone Book Reviews	Amanda Bruce	25-27
<b>CONTACTS</b>		<b>28</b>

**Cover:** George Street in snow (Ian Y Gilmour) **Photo credits** Jane Brown, Alison Bruce, Lorna Cammock, Flickr Creative Commons, Wendy Henderson, Pat McKerrow, Mary Scott. **Editor:** Alison Bruce

**Contact:** [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stagw.org.uk)

# Lent - Prayers, Sounds and Songs

Ian Y Gilmour

We have entered that most important season of the Christian year, Lent, when followers all around the world, consider carefully the practice of their faith. I'm going to make three suggestions to enhance our experience at St Andrew's and St George's West in 2018.



## **The first is Prayer.**

Prayer can be viewed as our commitment to develop a conversation with our Maker. This Creator is also the Father of Jesus who leaves us a most marvellous formula for prayer in The Lord's Prayer, which is used in all mainstream Christian worship on a daily basis. To use it or another of the great prayers of the bible on a daily basis has been found to be hugely beneficial through the centuries. To pray four Psalms each day will link you to a large group of believers who pray the whole book of Psalms during Lent. A smaller number pray them all in the course of one 24 hour period during this season.

I'm also keen to promote our own best practice - to engage each day at 1.00pm, by either supporting our congregational prayers in church every Monday to Friday or by committing to pray one, one, one (111) - it means praying for one person (or issue), for one minute at one o'clock for these 40 days.

Those with mobile phones can set a daily reminder of this commitment. If you don't have a specific person or issue, I suggest you pray for the growth of our congregational fellowship, as we are an important and vibrant congregation in the life of our national church.

The first message for this Lent is that prayer is vital, let us pray our way through it.

Monday 12 March at 2pm

# Sound

A Book Event at St Andrew's and St George's West



At the age of 27, acclaimed writer and photojournalist **Bella Bathurst** began to go deaf. Deafness shaped her life for 12 years, until everything changed again.

*“I can't hear London breathing any more. Perhaps it's dead.”*

Bella explores her personal experience and our fascinating relationship with sound.

Chaired by **Jane Fowler**

Tickets available from

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sound-tickets-42555322114](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sound-tickets-42555322114)

Or from St Andrew's and St George's West Church Office: **0131 225 3847**

Photocredit: Ben Gilbert Welcome



St Andrew's & St George's West  
13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

[stagw.org.uk](http://stagw.org.uk)  [stagw](https://www.facebook.com/stagw)  [@stagw1](https://twitter.com/stagw1)

**Tickets**  
£6 (£4 concessions)



St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh is a charity registered in Scotland No. SC008990

## **The second is sound.**

Too often we take our senses for granted. Bella Bathurst, the author of *The Lighthouse Stevensons*, had the challenging experience of losing her hearing in a relatively short period of time and was deaf for 12 years.

She has shared her learning in her excellent book 'Sound' published last year, and will share her insights during a conversation with Jane Fowler in our church at **2.00pm on Monday 12 March 2018**. It is a ticketed event with all the details elsewhere in this magazine.

The book draws on her extraordinary experience, exploring what it is like to lose your hearing and then - as Bella did - to regain it, and what this teaches about listening and silence, music and noise. She explores the deafness of the composer, Beethoven as well as the loss of hearing suffered by Scottish shipyard workers, making it plain that deaf people often know more about sound, than those with good hearing.

One in six of us will experience hearing loss. The book says that if sight gives us the world, then hearing gives us each other. Lent seems an ideal season to learn about losing then reclaiming life in its fullness through our senses.

## **The third is song.**

Professor Ruth Stone, Professor of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University tells us that;

*“...most people in African communities are expected to perform music and dance at a basic level. Performing is considered as normal as speaking.”*

At the **Songs of Slavery** event I will report on my findings in the southern United States connecting the audience to the ways in which African song became central indeed crucial to the major revolt, which was the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's in the United States.



**Tuesday 13 March at 7.30pm**

Andrea Baker, Ian Gilmour and the Choir of  
St Andrew's & St George's West explore

# Songs of Slavery



Photocredit: John Nield

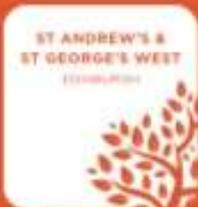


Singing from Africa to the  
African American Civil Rights  
Movement of the 1960's

60 minutes of words and music inspired  
by **Ian Gilmour's** study leave in Georgia,  
Alabama and Louisiana.

Tickets available from  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/songs-of-slavery-tickets-42555165646](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/songs-of-slavery-tickets-42555165646)

Or from St Andrew's and St George's West Church Office: 0131 225 3847



St Andrew's & St George's West  
13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

[stagw.org.uk](http://stagw.org.uk)  [stagw](https://www.facebook.com/stagw)  [@stagw1](https://twitter.com/stagw1)

## Tickets

£7 (£5 concessions)



It concerns songs from Africa that sustained both slaves and their descendants for generations. Songs that came from Africa, then incorporated the best of the Christian faith, withstood the dogs and water cannons in Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama. And it's about laughter – for laughter and resilience was encouraged by singing. I am delighted to report that we will have the remarkable African-American opera singer Andrea Baker, our excellent choir and a new drumming group to help explore this music. This evening event is on **Tuesday 13 at 7.30pm** and is also a ticketed event, details given in this magazine.

If, during Lent, 2018, we helpfully review or practice of prayer; deepen our knowledge of sound and engage with the sustaining power of song, we will have spent the season helpfully.

May God guide and bless you during Lent this year. Enjoy learning more about your Maker, His Son and The Enlivening Spirit, Ian

## **One Guy Didn't**

Three guys were tried for crimes against humanity.  
Two guys committed crimes. One guy didn't.  
Three guys were given government trials.  
Two guys had fair trials. One guy didn't.  
Three guys were whipped and beaten.  
Two guys had it coming. One guy didn't.  
Three guys were given crosses to carry.  
Two guys earned their crosses. One guy didn't.  
Three guys were mocked and spit at along the way.  
Two guys cursed and spit back. One guy didn't.  
Three guys were nailed to crosses.  
Two guys deserved it. One guy didn't.  
Three guys agonised over their abandonment.  
Two guys had reason to be abandoned. One guy didn't.  
Three guys talked while hanging on their crosses.  
Two guys argued. One guy didn't.  
Three guys knew death was coming.  
Two guys resisted. One guy didn't.  
One. Two. Three guys died on three crosses.  
Three days later. Two guys remained in their graves.  
One guy didn't.



## Lent and Easter Worship

To a Christian, Easter Sunday means everything, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Bernhard Langer

Easter is reflecting upon suffering for one thing, but it also reflects upon Jesus and his non-compliance in the face of great authority where he holds to his truth - so there's two stories there.

Michael Leunig

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

Pope John Paul II

Sunday 11.00am services

March 11 - Lent 4

**God's Love is Steadfast**

Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22

March 18 - Lent 5

**God's Love is on our hearts**

Jeremiah 31.31-34

April 8 - Easter 1

**Love Is a Response to Grace**

John 20.19-31

### **Worship Strengthens and Transforms**

Worship is helpful for our growth as followers of Christ, so consider joining us Sunday by Sunday.

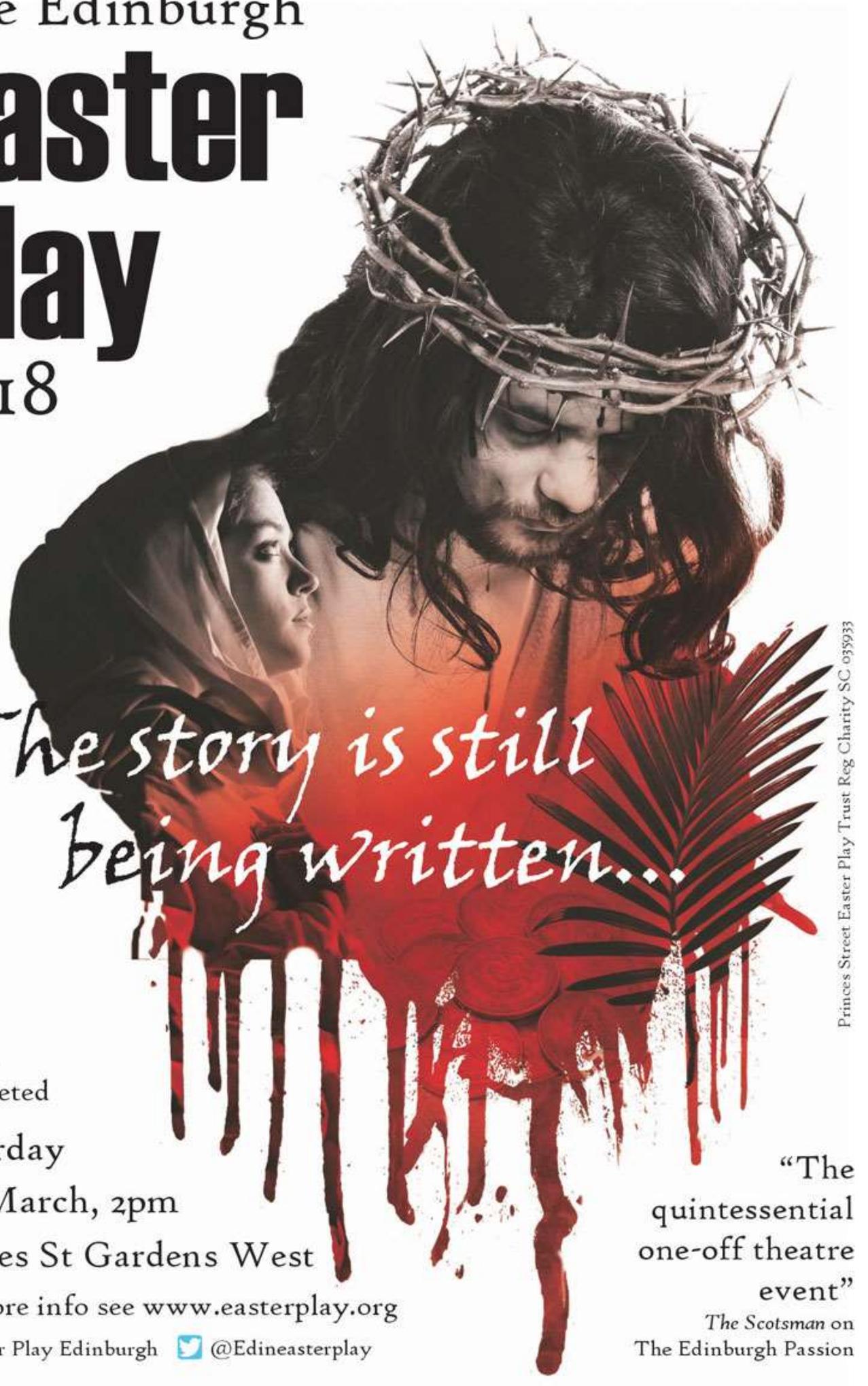
You can attend Communion at 9.00am, the All Age service at 9.45am or enjoy our progressive pattern at 11.00am or come to all three!

# Holy Week and Easter at StAGW

Beginning with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, this Sunday marks the beginning of the week when we tell the story that is central to our faith. **Some services** are held jointly with TOGETHER partner churches, St Cuthbert's and St John's.

- Sun 25 Mar Palm/Passion Sunday**  
9am Communion; 9.45am Learning Together  
11am Morning Worship *Love Arriving* Mark 11:1–11
- Mon 26 Mar 7pm at St John's Anointing**
- Tue 27 Mar 7pm at StAGW Coins**  
Music for female voices by Davies, Tavener and Burgon
- Wed 28 Mar Soul Space at St Cuthbert's** 12.30-2pm and 5-7pm,  
with led reflections at 1pm and 6pm
- Thur 29 Mar Maundy Thursday**  
7pm *Seder* – a meal based on Passover  
Music for male voices by Carvel and Stanford
- Fri 30 Mar Good Friday**  
12-3 at **St John's** *Three Hours focussed on Christ*  
(come and go at this service, or stay the full 3 hours)  
7pm at **StAGW Evening Worship**  
Music by Brahms, Lotti, Casals and Chilcott
- Sat 31 Mar Holy Saturday**  
10-12.30pm *Garden Party* – Messy Church at **StAGW**
- Sun 1 April Easter Day**  
7.30 am Easter Dawn Communion **St Cuthbert's Garden** followed by breakfast  
9am Short Communion  
9.45am Easter Breakfast in the Undercroft  
11am *Love comes to Life* Mark 16:1–8 **joint service with Albany, with choir and signing choir**

The Edinburgh  
**Easter  
Play**  
2018



*The story is still  
being written...*

Free &  
unticketed

Saturday

31st March, 2pm

Princes St Gardens West

For more info see [www.easterplay.org](http://www.easterplay.org)

 Easter Play Edinburgh  @Edineasterplay

“The  
quintessential  
one-off theatre  
event”

*The Scotsman on  
The Edinburgh Passion*

# Lent and Easter Diary

## March 2018

<b>Sun 4 Mar</b>	<b>9am, 9.45am, 11am, 2pm Albany</b> <b>1pm Fellowship Lunch for choir funds</b>
Mon 5 Mar	12 noon Yoga in the Davidson Room
Tue 6 Mar	All day Edinburgh Competition Festival
Wed 7 Mar	All day Edinburgh Competition Festival
Thurs 8 Mar	All day Edinburgh Competition Festival <b>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends, Davidson Room</b> Lenten Meditation – Rev Peter Sutton 6.30 for 7pm Amnesty Undercroft AGM (at Sally's)
Fri 9 Mar	All day Edinburgh Competition Festival
Sat 10 Mar	All day Edinburgh Competition Festival <b>Lunchtime - informal pot luck lunch with visitors from Sudan in the Undercroft</b>
<b>Sun 11 Mar</b>	<b>9am, 9.45am, 11am, 2pm Albany</b> <b>Noon: Easter Signing Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>Lunchtime – informal soup + sandwich lunch with visitors from Sudan in the Undercroft (£3)</b>
Mon 12 Mar	<b>2pm Sound – a Book Event with Bella Bathurst</b> <i>6.30pm AHSS Lecture – William Adam</i>
Tue 13 Mar	<b>7.30pm Songs of Slavery</b> <b>with Andrea Baker, Ian Gilmour and the choir</b>
Wed 14 Mar	<b>7.30pm Kirk Session</b>
Sat 17 Mar	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society
<b>Sun 18 Mar</b>	<b>9am, 9.45am, 11am, 2pm Albany</b> <b>Noon Easter Signing Choir Practice</b> 2pm Ludus Baroque Bach Cantata Project
Mon 19 Mar	<b>10.30 Book Group Chapel</b> 11.30 The Forgotten War of South Sudan – organised by Church of Scotland World Mission – <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-forgotten-war-our-lives-in-south-sudan-tickets-43065946405">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-forgotten-war-our-lives-in-south-sudan-tickets-43065946405</a>

<b>Sun 25 Mar</b>	<b>Palm Sunday 9am, 9.45am, 11am, 2pm Albany</b>
Mon 26 Mar	<b>12 pm Amnesty Undercroft Group 7pm Holy Week Services (St John's)</b>
Tue 27 Mar	<b>7pm Holy Week Services (StAGW)</b>
Wed 28 Mar	<b>12.30-2 and 5-7 Soul Space at St Cuthbert's</b>
Thur 29 Mar	<b>7pm Holy Week Services (Seder)</b>
Fri 30 Mar	<b>Good Friday - Café , church and office closed 12-3 Three Hours at St John's 7pm Holy Week Services</b>
Sat 31 Mar	<b>10am-12.30pm Messy Church <i>2pm Easter Play, Princes Street Gardens</i></b>
<b>Sun 1 Apr</b>	<b>EASTER DAY 7.30am Dawn Service at St Cuthbert's 9am Communion 9.45am Easter Breakfast 11am Joint service with Albany Deaf Church</b>
<b>April highlights</b>	
Mon 2 April	<b>Easter Monday Café, church and office closed</b>
Sun 8 Apr	<b>9am, 9.45am, 11am, 2pm Albany Fellowship Lunch for Amnesty</b>
Fri 20 April	<b>7.30pm My Life Flows on – Choir Concert</b>  <b>Jean Kleeb, Missa Brasileira (Scottish premiere) Songs of Love and Longing Music by MacMillan, Todd and Carvel</b>  Admission: £7 (£5 concession) Directed by Brigitte Harris
Sun 29 Apr	<b>CA: Push n Shove Sunday</b>
<b>May highlights</b>	
<b>30 Apr -11 May</b>	<b>CA Sorting and pricing (not Sunday)</b>
<b>12-18 May</b>	<b>CA Sale (not Sunday)</b>

## **Say it to God**

**Arthur Chapman**

The Sunday Discussion Group is restarting after a break of a few months. We meet in the Chapel from 10:30 to around 11:15 and will be using **Say it to God by Luigi Gioa**, Justin Welby's Lent Book for 2018: it provides encouragement for those already praying as well as looking at why we pray. All are welcome

## **Come Cruising**

**Michael Cunliffe**

The congregational outing on **Sunday 10 June** will take the form of a canal cruise from the Falkirk Wheel basin, departing from there at 1.30 and returning approximately 4.30. We shall be using the Seagull Trust vessel 'Wooden Spoon'. The likely route will be to travel up on the Wheel to the Union Canal and pass through the lock, along to (and possibly through) the Prospecthill Tunnel, returning by the same route. Bring a picnic lunch.

Places will be limited to 30, and there will be a charge of £10 (children £5). A sign-up sheet will be available on April Sundays after Easter, including indication of offers of/need for transport. Enquiries to **Michael Cunliffe**

## **Back to 1984**

**Alan Mackinlay**

Wendy, our Church Manager, recently unearthed one or two items of historical interest: a video of our church's special bi-centenary service of December 1984, with the then Moderator, Revd. John M K Paterson; a short (7 minute) video of the Outreach Church Appeal (with Revd Andrew Wylie); this was the start of what we now know as workplace chaplaincy. There is also a video of a 'Songs of Praise', undated, but probably circa 1990, with Revd Andrew McLellan.

There are a number of boxes of photo-slides, covering the building (inside and outside), groups of members, scouts, meetings, study groups, the book sale of 1981, and so on. Finally, there are a number of tapes of an address by Prof. Stewart Brown, of New College, given in 1993 on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Disruption, a very informative history of what gave rise to it.

No doubt arrangements could be made of anyone wanted to see, or listen to, any of these items

# News from Albany Deaf Church

## Hearing Church 1952-55

Irene Wilson

When I was about eight years old. I went regularly with my hearing friends to Dunfermline Abbey.

I did not understand what the minister was preaching about, so my friends looked up the Bible quotes and passed them to me to read – I followed these with the Minister's sermon. I also passed the time during sermons by looking around at the magnificent Abbey building, particularly the beautiful colours from the stained glass windows.

It was freezing cold inside the church (before central heating). I attended the church from the age of eight to eleven and I gave up attending the church because of lack of understanding because of the communication barrier. But I feel sure that Jesus will not send me to hell for want of an interpreter.

This piece was written by Irene Wilson, an elder of Albany Deaf Church. It was signed to me, and I then wrote it up in English.

It is through our personal stories to each other that we come to understand as a whole community something of each other's lives, and Irene wanted to give you a small insight into her journey to faith. **Rosie Addis**

## Easter Signing Choir

Rosie Addis

We will be renewing our covenant together on Easter Sunday, and as part of the service there will be **a signing choir, the membership of which is open to all.** Please do come along **after the 11am service on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March**, to learn the song and some BSL vocabulary in a relaxed and friendly way!

## We get around!

Check out this blog to see what some of our folk are getting up to

<http://mobiledeaf.org.uk/entering-kakuma-refugee-camp/>



## More Joy to the World

The tree lights are packed away, the decorations safely stowed and the last of the pine needles hoovered up. But there was still one task – to hand the funds raised at the Christmas Tree Festival to the three charities MSF, PASDA and VOCAL. This year the Festival raised over £4,300, and so each charity received a cheque for just over £1400.

We learned from **Susan** at **PASDA**, a local charity which assists carers of adults with autism spectrum disorder, how their programmes and workshops combat the isolation carers can experience. “The greatest joy we have is when someone says *I know I’m not the only one now and I have somebody to talk to*”. PASDA will be able to run more group activities this year.

**Arun**, from Edinburgh Student Friends of **Medecins sans Frontieres**, told us that MSF was both a humanitarian organisation working in difficult places and an advocate for change. MSF no longer takes money from European or national governments and relies heavily on individual giving and fundraising.

**VOCAL (Voice of Carers Across Lothian)** supports unpaid carers. offering information, training, counselling and respite breaks.

**Francesca** explained that VOCAL has outgrown its current premises and funds raised will help to kit out their new Carers’ Centre in Leith.



## Pearson Soka at StAGW

It was great to meet **Pearson Soka**, hospital administrator of Mulanje Mission Hospital (MMH) in Malawi, in February.

We have supported MMH since Medical Director Dr Ruth Shakespeare was commissioned here at StAGW. Here's the moment the partnership was signed! Pearson gave us a fascinating update on progress which we have helped to support.



**Solar power** In Malawi the official power supply is unreliable. Power cuts can be fatal for patients if supply to theatre, incubators and wards is interrupted. Solar power is a great alternative - the sun shines for 11 hours a day in Mulanje - and now 70% of MMH's energy is solar powered. Previously, MMH lost 2 babies a day, so solar power saves lives – and improves care for all patients.

To keep up with news from Mulanje you can read their quarterly newsletter on line at <http://www.mmh.mw/>



**Emergency funding** After the floods a couple of years ago which destroyed crops we were able to support MMH to distribute food in the community.

**Professional Development** STAGW supported Pearson through his MBA (Masters of Business Administration) and is supporting the matron of MMH in her Masters degree (now final year) This is making a huge difference to the local community. MMH operates with low resources yet serves a large rural community, including people walking over the border from Mozambique. Pearson said that his



MBA is helping to make better decisions, to prioritise and to budget so that the hospital runs effectively in challenging circumstances.

**Next steps?** As well as installing more solar power, MMH wants to move more into preventative rather than curative healthcare. In Malawi, people come to hospital only when they are critically ill. By this stage treatment is very expensive, and less successful. So the challenge is to educate the community to seek medical help as early as possible, when treatment has a much better outcome and is also cheaper. Getting men, in particular, to do this is very difficult.



# **All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Creatures Great and Small...**

## **Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary**

Let's imagine for a moment that you're a small bird. Perhaps a bit chunky-looking, yet deceptively, you weigh little more than a copy of this magazine. You are short-tailed, small-winged, and strong-legged, and often described as the world's only truly aquatic passerine bird – passerine meaning that you have 'feet' adapted for perching on rocks, branches, and the like. Add to this your ability to spend hours repeatedly bobbing, diving, and swimming, plus amazingly, to walk under water foraging for your prey. Yes indeed, you've guessed, you're an aptly named dipper, beautifully clad in dense brown plumage with a white breast.

I have had the great pleasure of watching these birds often, mainly on my local patch of the Water of Leith (WoL), as well as on the River Tweed near Peebles and in suitably fast-flowing rivers in the Scottish Highlands. What incredible examples of God's care in nature's perfect design. And, the loud high-pitched wren-like call, the low fast kingfisher-

like flight-path, and the distinctive ‘displaying’ body-movements, all ensure dippers are instantly recognisable and have secured their place in popularity. To quote Kathleen Jamie’s poem ‘The Dipper’:

“...I’d walked through a forest of firs  
when I saw issue out of the waterfall  
a solitary bird.

It lit on a damp rock,  
and, as water swept on,  
wrung from its own throat  
supple, undammable song...”

In mid-February, I spent several hours watching a pair ‘work’ their territory on the WoL. I was stunned by the stamina, persistence, communication, and the undeniable beauty of their partnership; a real treat to witness and photograph, and despite all other goings on in that stretch of the river, they made it ‘their time’ – oblivious to everything else, focussed only on each other and the tasks in hand...I too became completely absorbed in their activity and indeed that oneness with creation I have felt many times before in similar special wildlife encounters. Ironically, just before me in the water lay a discarded ‘No Waiting’ sign, and of all the potential resting places along the water’s edge, the male chose this as his favoured regular perch.

Of course, signs of spring are everywhere, and I have no doubt that the closeness I witnessed in this pair, is a pre-cursor to their nesting. Other birds on my stretch of the river are currently vying for partners, and I’ve observed real aggression amongst mallards, with many individuals bullying and physically attacking rivals. Away from the water, daffodils and crocuses threaten to burst into full bloom, and before we know it, new life will surround us in many forms. As ever, there will be so much to delight in and celebrate as we reflect, share and ultimately give thanks for the hope the Easter period offers. Temple Frere’s hymn tells it beautifully:

“In the lanes and in the parks little flowers are showing;  
God, who made and loves the flowers, watches o’er their growing.  
In the bushes and the trees, birdsong is beginning;  
God, who made and loves the birds, listens to their singing.”

For these things and more, spring has always been one of my favourite times of year; perhaps that's no surprise having grown up surrounded by nature in rural Galloway. I remember as a young child the thrill of seeing the first young lambs each year; likewise ducklings, goslings, and 'bunnies'; the latter seemed plentiful and inevitably featured high on the 'ah' scale!

What is it about baby birds and animals that so appeals? Maybe quite simply, the overwhelming cuteness? Maybe their vulnerability? Or maybe, as I suspect, it's more spiritual, and tied in with the gift of life and our instinctive need to multiply, nurture, and care? However you explain it, I defy anyone not to have been moved by some of the antics of youngsters within the films and books we enjoyed in childhood, eg Bambi, Peter Rabbit, Watership Down, and much closer to home, our treasured Greyfriars Bobby.

I look forward with eager anticipation to all that the next few months will bring as spring reveals its full glory, and as always, I will aim to capture as much of it as possible for future stories and photographs.

For now, I close with this 17<sup>th</sup> century Easter carol:

'The whole bright world rejoices now:  
*with laughing cheer! with boundless joy!*  
The birds do sing on every bough:  
*Alleluia!*

Then shout beneath the racing skies:  
*with laughing cheer! with boundless joy!*  
To him who rose that we might rise:  
*Alleluia!*

God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost:  
*with laughing cheer! with boundless joy!*  
Our God most high, our joy, our boast:  
*Alleluia!*

Every blessing, Pat McKerrow



## Noah's Ark and the Rainbow: a faith story

### Ruth Forrester

The story of Noah's Ark was the suggested focus for the 9.45 'Learning Together' service on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Lorna (Cammock) and I had agreed to take the lead – a challenging task! I set out to find out more about the story of the Great Flood.



The story is an ancient one told in many different cultures. There are great flood stories in Greek myth, Norse myth, Aboriginal and Chinese tradition. Similar stories are told in Hinduism, and in the Bahai faith. The Genesis story is also told in the Quran and Noah is recognised as a prophet in Islam.

The biblical version originates from stories told in Mesopotamia going back as far as the 20<sup>th</sup> century BC. The first writers of the book of Genesis were exiled in Babylon around the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC and would have been familiar with stories such as the one in the Epic of Gilgamesh where the gods sent a flood to destroy the world. The flood hero, Utnapishtim ('He-found-life'), was forewarned by the God, Ea, to build an ark to house and preserve living things. After the flood he sent out birds to look for dry land.

The version now contained in the book of Genesis culminates with a rainbow, symbolising God’s promise. “Never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth ... I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.” (Genesis 9 v11, 13)



Just as stories change and evolve, so do symbols. Archbishop Desmond Tutu drew on this story when he named South Africans, “the Rainbow people of God”, and “the many making one”.



The rainbow is now used in the Buddhist flag, the flag of the Peace movement and the LGBT pride flag. The rainbow symbol has become a symbol of hope, unity, peace and reconciliation.

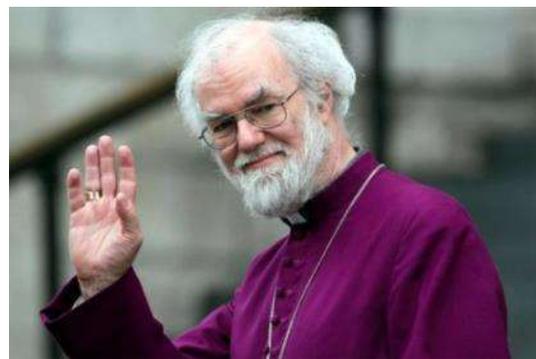
So, what did we do in the ‘Learning Together’ service? Together we told the story again - our very own St Andrew's and St Georges West version. The story continues to evolve – along with the rainbow symbol... and our faith.



# Lent: An Evening with Dr Rowan Williams

Wednesday 21 March at 7.15pm

St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place



In conversation with **Professor Mona Siddiqui**, Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies, the University of Edinburgh. Chaired by **Ewan Aitken**, Cyrenians CEO.

Dr Rowan Williams is acknowledged internationally as an outstanding theological writer, scholar and teacher. He has written extensively across a very wide range of related fields – philosophy, theology, spirituality and religious aesthetics. He has also written throughout his career on moral, ethical and social topics and increasingly on contemporary cultural and interfaith issues.

Full details and tickets (£10: £8 concession: £3 student) at <http://eicsp.org/events/event-details/524-an-evening-with-dr-rowan-williams-21-march-2018>

## TOGETHERness...TOGETHERnews...

James McNeill, Secretary



The Together trustees embrace a wide range of skill-sets: currently including accountancy, administration, finance, law, music and social welfare. The current secretary, a lawyer trying to attain retirement, was interviewed by The Times because of an unusual case in which he had been involved. The interview questions ranged wider and the eagle-eyed will pick up the links with our three congregations...

### **What's the best decision you've taken as a lawyer – why?**

To agree to be General Editor of the new Practical Guide to Charity Law. I hope that the result of the team's work proves accessible to the administrators of small and medium charities who cannot run for legal advice on every issue.

### **Who has inspired you in your career?**

A university lecturer, RWM Dias: good society needs lawyers who understand the proper controls on otherwise unfettered liberty. My devil-master, David Hope: commanding strength comes from comprehensive reconnaissance and unfailing courtesy.

### **What's the oddest/funniest thing that has happened to you - as a lawyer?**

Attending the US Securities and Exchange Commission when I expected to be leading the discussion and ended up being unceremoniously grilled.

### **What's the best advice you've received? (2010)**

"If you don't stop working as hard as you are, you will never find out what else you might be burning to do."

### **Which three qualities should a lawyer have?**

Being well read within and outside the law: there are few things new under the sun. Logical thought: you have to persuade clients and courts immediately. The courage to doubt: you won't win if you don't understand the other side's view of you.

### **What law would you enact – and why?**

The new Trusts Bill for Scotland (our draft has been waiting for 3 years). The confiscation of any convertible motor car driven on a good day with the roof up (my MG and I have been together for 45 years and would not be at risk).

### **For what/how would you like to be remembered?**

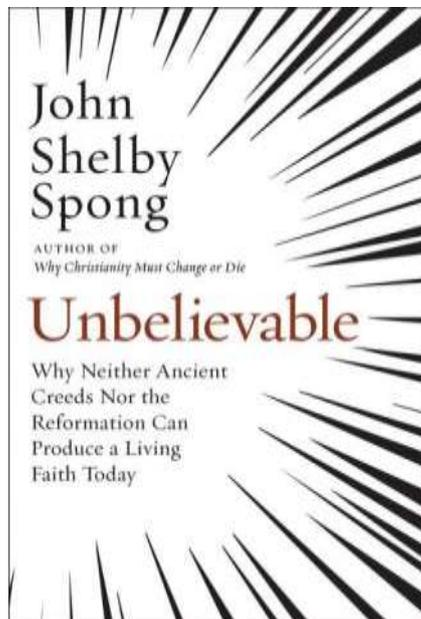
The support and encouragement young musicians. Music sustains the community, whether in health or challenged. Working with the next generations is both inspirational and the greatest of fun.

# Cornerstone Bookshop Reviews

Amanda Bruce

## Unbelievable by John Shelby Spong £18.99

In this, his last book (he has so far written five 'last' books!), John



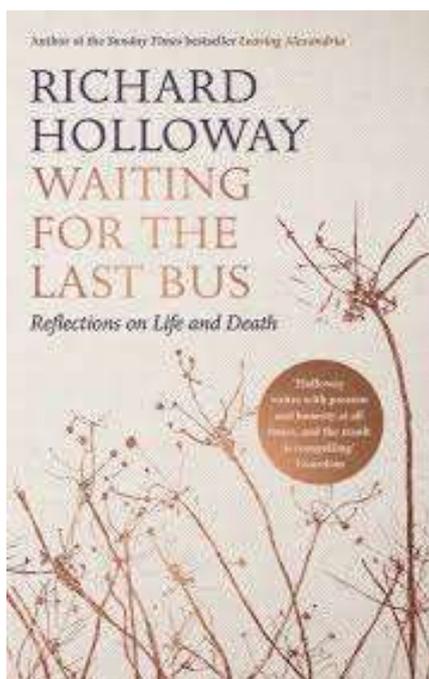
Shelby Spong continues his quest to encourage the church to loosen the shackles of its past in order that it be relevant today. Despite advances of science and philosophy since the Reformation, the church, he argues, has rendered itself 'unbelievable' by failing to re-evaluate its creeds and claims in light of these developments in human thought. The idea that the church needs to be re-forming all the time is not new.

However, Spong takes that idea and presents twelve 'theses' – areas which he believes pose particular barriers to people – and through each one offers his vision of what we mean by the

word 'God' and what 'faith in God' might mean for us.

## Waiting for the Last Bus by Richard Holloway £14.99

As Richard Holloway says himself by way of introducing what lead him to write this book of reflections on death and dying, he has personally and professionally encountered these matters on countless occasions



as each of us, inevitably, will do to some greater or lesser extent. There have been several movements in recent years designed to encourage people to talk more about death – being with others (or not) when they die, grieving and being alongside those who do, what is meant by a 'good death' and 'Is such a thing possible?' and thinking about and preparing for our own deaths – and this book is a welcome aid to these conversations. Holloway also reminds how looking at the subject of death offers the chance for us to reflect on life also – both our own lives and life itself – and does so with inspiring words to both comfort and challenge

our thinking.

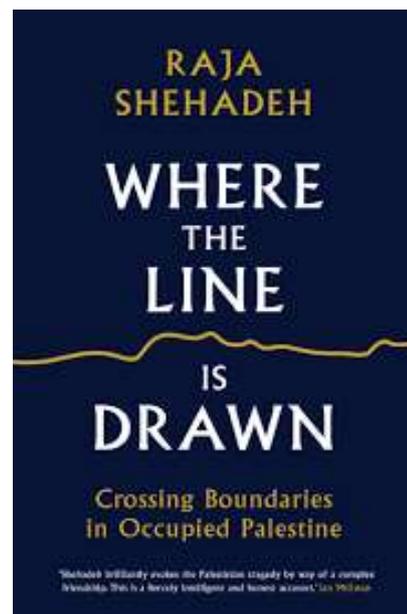
## Where the Line is Drawn by Raja Shehadeh £8.99

Newly published in paperback is Raja Shehadeh's powerful meditation on what Palestinian life under military occupation is like. Born three years after the foundation of the Israeli state, his life was shaped by the political events going on around him.

Shehadeh grew up in Ramallah where his parents, along with many thousands of other Palestinians, had taken refuge after being forced to abandon their homes in the coastal city of Jaffa. As a young man he decided to take up law and, having studied in London, returned to his homeland, working to halt land seizures and to promote peace and justice among communities.

At the heart of his chronicling the years of conflict, is the friendship he had with an Israeli Jew, Henry. Both idealists, over the years their relationship became wounded and fragile – a symbol of the wider situation which has left so many communities and regions diminished and volatile. The point, however, is that their friendship endured and this is offered as an illustration of hope.

Acknowledging the hurt they sometimes caused each other and the anger and disappointment both have caused the other to feel, yet they have reconciled with a mutual respect for one another. Beautifully written and never sentimental, this memoir explores the profound power of affiliation and love and, ultimately, asks whether those considered bitter enemies can ever come together to forge a common future.

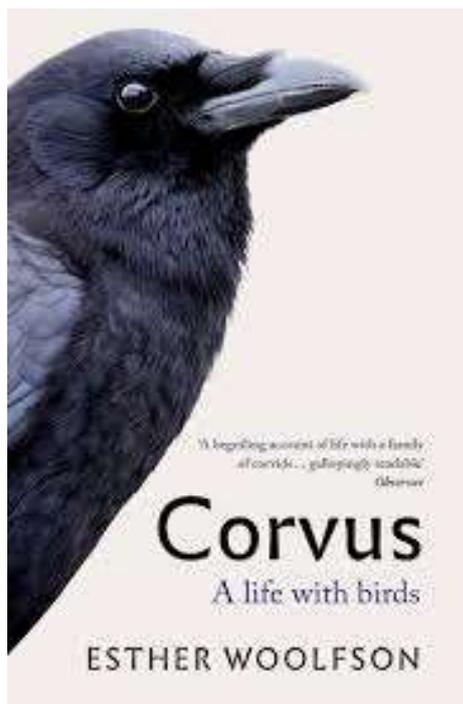


## I Love You, Stick Insect by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros £6.99

Our favourite recent picture paperback to come into stock! "Tickle my splinters! You are the most beautiful stick insect I have ever seen! Come with me and we'll have fun, laughter and live happily ever after." But something isn't quite right and Butterfly has spotted the problem. A story which very gently illustrates the fact that life isn't always what it seems, that a dream may not come true, but another one comes along and life goes on!



## Corvus – A Life with Birds by Esther Woolfson £9.99



Corvus is the exploration of a very different friendship – between a woman and the many varied birds with whom she and her family shared their home. Having taken in a rescued, fledgling rook (called chicken!) Woolfson discovered the special bond she felt with Corvids – members of the crow family – who amazed her with their “personality and capacity for affection.” Essentially an autobiography, there is plenty of science in this enchanting, gentle and beautifully illustrated study. A welcome addition to the many books currently on the market which reveal the extraordinary bond that humans and animals can forge and how much we can learn from our encounters with them.

---

## Pilgrim for an Hour – an update

- the app is now available for **Android** phones  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sanctusmedia.android.pilgrimhour>
- The iOs app is now available in **Gaelic** and further foreign language editions are planned



## St John's 1818-2018

St John's Bicentenary year begins on **Sunday 18 March** exploring liturgy and hymns of 1818.

More celebrations are planned – once building works are completed.



**St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street Edinburgh**

**EH2 2PA 0131 225 3847**

**[www.stagw.org.uk](http://www.stagw.org.uk)  stagw  @StAGW1**

**Office open Mon - Fri 10am-3pm**  
**Church open Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm: Sat 11am-2pm**  
**Undercroft Café Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm**  
**Sunday worship 9am, 9.45am, 11am**  
**Weekday worship 1pm Monday – Friday**

**Minister Rev Ian Y Gilmour**  
**0131 225 3847 (church)**  
**[IGilmour\[at\]churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:IGilmour@churchofscotland.org.uk)**

**Pastoral Minister Rev Alistair McGregor**

**Session Clerk Crispin Longden**

**Joint Treasurers John Innes**  
**Allan Sim**

**Director of Music Brigitte Harris**  
**Assistant DoM Andrew Carvel**

**Church manager Wendy Henderson**  
**0131 225 3847 [churchmanager\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:churchmanager@stagw.org.uk)**

**Church secretary Joyce Garland**  
**0131 225 3847 [info\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:info@stagw.org.uk)**

**Church administrator Sophie Hudson**  
**0131 225 3847 [admin\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:admin@stagw.org.uk)**

**Safeguarding Barbara Finlayson**

**Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER**

**TOGETHER Chair Markus Duenzkofer, St John's**

**TOGETHER Trustees from StAGW: Rev Ian Y Gilmour, Frances Cooper, James McNeill and Alastair MacKenzie**

**City Centre Andrew Gregg**

**Workplace Chaplain [andrew.gregg\[at\]wpcscotland.co.uk](mailto:andrew.gregg@wpcscotland.co.uk)**

**St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**is a registered charity. Scottish charity number SC008990**